

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed, and reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-4 were originally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dembicks (U.S. Patent 5,897,001).

However, the Examiner has pointed out that claims 5-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Responsive to this, claims 4 and 5 are deleted, and claim 1 is amended which is substantially the combination of original claims 1, 4 and 5 so as to make the claimed invention more distinguishably patentable over the prior art reference cited by the Examiner.

Accordingly, by the amendments, it is believed that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) should be withdrawn, and the amended claim 1 should be allowable.

It is further submitted that the claims 2 and 3 should be allowable as they are dependent upon the amended claim 1 which is believed to be allowable.

In addition, claim 6 is amended to form an independent claim which is substantially the combination of original claims 1 and 6 so as to make the claimed

invention more distinguishably patentable over the prior art reference cited by the Examiner.

Accordingly, by the amendments, it is believed that the amended claim 6 should be allowable.

It is further submitted that the amended claims 7-9 should be allowable as they are dependent upon the amended claim 6 which is believed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the application is now in a condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, he is urged to contact Applicant's attorney at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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